AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 6, after line 6 insert the following paragraph.

The internal portion 102a and the internal portion 104a communicate via connection points (CP) 25 across intervening network 132.

Replace the paragraph on page 7, beginning at line 8, with:

If necessary, MN1 executes a Binding Update with SG1. Therefore SG1 maps the external HoA of MN2 to the external CoA (care-of-address) of MN2 and tunnels packets addressed for MN1 from the internal portion 102a to the external CoA of MN2 in the external portion 102b.

Replace the paragraph on page 9, beginning at line 18, with:

When a new optimal VCA/SG has been identified which is in a different segment, VCA1 automatically sends 234 the context of MN1 to the VCA of the optimal segment (VCA2). The VCAs can communicate with authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) attribute-value-pairs (AVP) between segments, and the VCA functionally can be combined with AAA infrastructure. The information sent may additionally identify the location of MN1 so that VCA2 can determine the optimal SG.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION CONTINUED:

Insert after page 19 the following:

Abstract: A virtual private network has an internal secured portion which connects to an external portion, the network via at least a first gateway and via a second gateway. There are a plurality of workstations including at least one mobile workstation in the external portion. The network automatically changes the point through which the mobile workstation communicates with the internal portion of the network from the first gateway to the second gateway, in response to movement of the mobile workstation. Context information is transferred to the second gateway. The context information includes an identifier of the mobile workstation and may also include material for defining secure communication means by which information is transferable securely between the mobile workstation in the external portion of the network and the internal portion of the network, via the second gateway.